

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Department of Natural Resources
Room 1060
April 12, 2005

Minutes

Member Present:

HARTY, Kimm – Utah Geological Survey
KLOTZ, Eric – Division of Water Resources
CLARK, Robert – DEQ/Air Quality
KAPPE, Karl – Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands
ZAREKARIZI, Susan – State Parks and Recreation
DANIELS, Ron – Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
SCHLOTTHAUER, Bill – Division of Water Rights
REICHERT, Mike – DEQ/Division of Water Quality
BRADWISCH, Bill – Division of Wildlife Resources
BIRKES, William – DEQ/Division of Drinking Water
GRUBAUGH-LITTIG, Pamela – Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
GUNNELL, Roy – Utah Department of Agriculture & Food
WILCOX, Richard – School & Institutional Trust Lands

Others Present:

HARJA, John – Department of Natural Resources
WRIGHT, Carolyn – Department of Natural Resources
LANDURETH, Brenda – Department of Natural Resources
HIGDON, Matthew – Bureau of Land Management
EGAN, Mike – Maxim Technologies
MCDONALD, Greg – Utah Geological Survey
GIRAUD, Rich – Utah Geological Survey
HANSEN, Mike – Governor's Office of Planning & Budget

Kimm Harty, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.

I. Approval of Minutes/Election

Pamela Grubaugh-Littig made a motion to approve the March 8, 2005 minutes. Bill Schlotthauer seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved with minor changes.

II. Special Presentations/Discussions

Proposed Utah Land Use Plan Amendment for Fire and Fuels Management Environmental Assessment (EA) #5064– Matthew Higdon, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

In early 2004, the Utah BLM initiated an effort to amend the agency's land use plans to update direction for management of fire and fuels on the BLM-administered lands in the state. In recent years, national fire management policy has evolved in response to the increased fatalities, property loss, local economic disruptions and risk to ecosystems associated with increasingly severe wildland fire seasons and increasing Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) conflicts. In order to comply with BLM national planning guidance (specifically IM-WO-2004-007) for addressing fire and fuels management, the BLM Utah State Office, with the assistance of Maxim Technologies, Inc., has developed a draft *Utah Land Use Plan Amendment for Fire and Fuels Management Environmental Assessment (EA)*. This *Amendment EA* would update and bring into compliance up to 21 of the 25 existing BLM plans in the state. (Price and Vernal plans are nearing completion of their revision and were not included in the effort).

The Proposed Action represents land use plan level decisions, which typically are broad in scope and provide goals, objectives, priorities, and criteria for implementation of programmatic or site-specific projects. Specifically, the Proposed Action would:

- a. Establish “landscape-level,” fire management goals and objectives
- b. Identify criteria that would be used for establishing fire management priorities
- c. Describe Desired Wildland Fire Conditions (DWFC) by Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC), with associated management strategies (considering firefighter and public safety) and actions (appropriate management response and hazardous fuel treatments) to meet DWFC and land use allocations
- d. Describe areas where fire may be restored to the ecosystem through wildland fire use for resource benefit and areas where wildland fire use is not appropriate
- e. Identify maximum burned areas and treatment acres (for the 15-year life of plan) for wildland fire; wildland fire use for resource benefit; prescribed fire treatments; non-fire fuel treatments; and emergency stabilization and rehabilitation actions
- f. Identify Resource Protection Measures for fire management practices (wildland fire suppression, wildland fire use for resource benefit, prescribed fire treatments, non-fire fuel treatments and emergency stabilization and rehabilitation actions) to protect natural or cultural resource values

This EA was released for public review in late March, with comments due to the BLM by April 30, 2005. It is anticipated that the EA will be submitted for consistency review by the Governor in June 2005.

Concurrently, EAs are being prepared for each of the five BLM Fire Management Plans in Utah (one for each of the five Fire Support Centers – Moab, Richfield, Cedar City, Salt Lake, and Vernal). This Amendment EA will provide overriding direction for the BLM’s implementation of these program-level Fire Management Plans. The five EAs will analyze impacts of implementing these programmatic Plans. The Fire Management Plans would provide more local or regional detail for how the BLM intends to manage lands for fire and fuels management. It is anticipated that these five EAs will be released for public review by June 2004. Two handouts were provided to the committee *Utah Land Use Plan Amendment for Fire and Fuels Management EA* and *Issues Analyzed-Utah LUP Amendment for Fire and Fuels Management EA*.

Department of Natural Resources comment deadline is Thursday, April 14, 2005. All comments are due to the BLM by Saturday, April 30, 2005.

The Division of Air Quality has been accepting comments on their Smoke Management Plan for Utah. Additional coordination among other agencies regarding fuel reduction and smoke management issues was suggested. State Parks and Recreation will also be involved since BLM property is adjacent to a state park.

III. Reports from Agencies on Any Anticipated Projects

Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, reported that there is an increase in oil and gas activity in the state. The division is in an informal rule-making process. The Minerals Regulatory Program is amending rules to ensure industry compliance. The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget will be working on an oil and gas study. Senate Bill 63 failed regarding severance tax amendments.

Matthew Higdon, BLM, reported that due to BLM bureau-wide maintenance it will not be possible to review the Vernal Resource Management Plan (RMP) on the BLM Homepage. The BLM Homepage provides access to all BLM plans. The comment period for the Vernal RMP will be extended until the website is back online. Richfield Draft RMP comment deadline is mid-July. Comments are due for the Price Preliminary Final Environmental Impact Statement in late July or early June. The Cedar City RMP will be delayed for at least one year. The St. George Travel Management Plan has been tabled.

Bill Schlotthauer, Division of Water Rights, will be holding a series of meetings to discuss current water appropriations in the Upper Colorado River Basin. Information will be provided regarding Utah's entitlement, current level of use, approved yet undeveloped applications to appropriate water. Current water appropriation policy and other related items.

Vernal Commission Chamber/Courtroom/State and County Building
April 20, 2005 1:00 p.m.

Price River Water Improvement District
April 20, 2005 7:00 p.m.

Loa Commission Chamber/Wayne County Courthouse
April 21, 2005 1:00 p.m.

Grand County Council Chambers/Moab
April 21, 2005 7:00 p.m.

IV. Review of Proposed Items as Listed on the Project Management Library

A handout of the current status of the RDCC Project Management System was provided to the committee.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 a.m. The next meeting will be held on May 10, 2005, at 9:00 a.m., in room 1010.

